

June 13, 2017

Representative Jim Tedder
Chair | Tax Policy Committee
N-892 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman Tedder,

Please accept this letter of support for Senate Bills 242-244, the Good Jobs for Michigan package, upon consideration in the House Tax Policy Committee. As the region's economic development catalyst, we are highly supportive of measures like the Good Jobs for Michigan package that give local economic development organization the tools to contend with peer states who attempt to compete with us for jobs. These bills will help us win large projects for which we have not been able to compete in the past several years.

Southwest Michigan is unique in that we have seen a concentrated effort by states across southern Michigan's border attempting to lure companies over the state line with offers of free buildings, land and cash incentives. The State of Michigan offers few economic development tools to help combat this attraction effort by our neighbors. Further, we have lost large new job creation projects because we cannot compete with incentives in other states.

The State of Michigan is at a critical juncture where we must restore our population losses from the "lost decade" of the early 2000s. We have seen great success in the region, but the vast majority of projects are small ones creating under 100 jobs. If we want to continue on the road to recovery and success, we must begin to grow our population by leaps and bounds. These bills give us that ability.

Thank you for your consideration and hearing of Senate Bills 242-244. I hope for a swift passage in committee and in the House. Keep up the great work for the people of Michigan!

Always Forward.



Ron Kitchens
senior partner & chief executive officer